



Bundesamt
für Bauwesen und
Raumordnung

Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

The year 2000 has brought some interesting tasks for the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR). From 4 to 6 July the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) was held in Berlin. About 4.000 participants from all over the world took part in this event. Three days long, politicians, businessmen, scientists and representatives from both the public sector and from non-governmental organisations discussed future perspectives for our cities. URBAN 21 represented one of the key elements of the Global Initiative for Sustainable Development. This initiative was launched at the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York in 1997. An editorial group moderated by Professor Tommy Koh from Singapore prepared the final declaration, the so-called *Berlin Declaration*. Numerous suggestions made by the participants of the conference were integrated in this declaration. Information on the conference and its outcomes are available in the internet at www.urban21.de.

Many urban challenges today may only be faced on the regional level, especially in Europe. Urban sprawl, for example, is an issue which requires regional approaches as it is mainly caused by intercommunal competition for financially attractive land. Taking this, amongst others, into account, the competition "Regions of the Future – Regional Agendas for a Sustainable Spatial and Settlement Development" was closed in July with the presentation of the best results at URBAN 21 where Mr. Reinhard Klimmt, the German Minister of Transport, Building and Housing awarded the prizes to the winners. The BBR conducted this

competition on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing. For further information please refer to www.zukunftsregionen.de or, alternatively, follow the advices at the website of the BBR at www.bbr.bund.de.

With the presentation of the final report on the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning this programme, which was launched by the European Commission together with the EU Member States in 1998, was settled in spring. The Study Programme, aiming at establishing a network of policy-advising research institutes in the European Union, brought together 200 researchers from all 15 EU Member States. It demonstrated a strong dedication of all contributors to a common research work in the field of spatial planning.

INTERREG III – the European Community Initiative will be continued in the structural funds period 2000–2006. EU Ministers responsible for spatial planning agreed, already during their informal meeting in 1999, upon continuing the Community Initiative INTERREG II C. This initiative is an important instrument for implementing the policy orientations of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). The German Federal government and the Länder participate in a number of European co-operation areas. The BBR supports this co-operation in the fields of project coordination, advisory services for the creation of transnational co-operation and administrative structures, technical support for projects and exchange of information.

The editors

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URBAN 21 – the Berlin Declaration on the Urban Future, 6 July 2000

On the occasion of the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) the so-called *Berlin Declaration* was presented. The declaration is published here in full text.

We, citizens and representatives of 1000 cities, governments and civil society organisations from over 100 countries from all regions of the world, met in Berlin, from the 4th to the 6th of July 2000, at the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21). We commend this declaration to the public and as a contribution to the Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Istanbul +5).

We took into consideration the following realities:

- *For the first time in human history, a majority of the world's six billion people will live in cities.*
- *The world is facing explosive growth of urban population, mainly in the developing world.*
- *Urban poverty, affecting especially women and children, is on the increase, with one in four of the world's urban population living below the poverty line.*
- *In many countries, social conditions continue to deteriorate and the health and well being of their citizens are threatened by the HIV-epidemic and the reappearance of major infectious diseases.*
- *We live in a world of great diversity, in which there is no simple answer and no single solution to the problems and challenges facing our cities.*
- *Many cities, confronted with hypergrowth, are failing to cope with the challenges of generating employment, providing adequate housing and meeting the basic needs of their citizens.*
- *Some highly dynamic cities have achieved development with equity, with poverty substantially reduced, illiteracy eliminated, the women educated and empowered, and birth rates falling.*
- *Other cities face an ageing population, urban decay, unsustainable use of resources and the need to adapt and change.*
- *No city in any part of the world is free of problems; in particular, none is truly sustainable.*

We also took into account the following trends, fully aware of their positive and negative implications:

- *Globalisation and the information technology revolution will increasingly create a borderless world with a new role for cities.*

- *Economies and societies are becoming increasingly knowledge based.*
- *The world is becoming not only a community of nation states, but also a galaxy of interconnected cities.*
- *Power is being shared more evenly between national governments, regions and cities.*
- *The governance of cities is becoming increasingly democratic.*
- *There is growing awareness of the rights of women, the indivisibility of human rights and the need for participation and environmental stewardship.*
- *New partnerships between the public sector, private sector and civil society are evolving.*

We affirm the following principles:

- *The principle of sustainable development*
- *The principle of non-discrimination and gender equality*
- *The principle of cultural and religious tolerance*
- *The principle of good governance*
- *The principle of subsidiarity*
- *The principle of interdependence*
- *The principle of human solidarity*

We also believe that, to different degrees and with different priorities, all human beings, irrespective of race, religion and gender, share certain common aspirations which cities should attempt to fulfil:

- *Freedom from poverty;*
- *Satisfying work which yields sufficient income;*
- *Living in ecological harmony with nature;*
- *Access to clean air, safe water and adequate sanitation;*
- *Adequate housing and security of tenure;*
- *Ability to move easily from home to work, shops, schools and other destinations;*
- *Life in stable and integrated communities of friends and neighbours;*
- *Enjoying the political rights of citizenship, including the right of participation in decision-making, and the right of access to information and justice;*
- *Feeling safe and secure in their persons and belongings.*

We therefore recommend the following actions as the most urgent:

- *Cities and other levels of government should adopt effective urban policies and planning processes, which integrate the social, economic, environmental and spatial aspects of development, recognising the interdependence between the city and the region, and between the urban, rural and wilderness areas.*
 - *Cities should strive to alleviate poverty and meet the basic needs of their citizens by promoting economic opportunity and enabling community action.*
 - *Cities should adopt social policies and measures which will lead to the reduction of violence and crime.*
 - *Cities should embrace information and communication technologies and promote the life-long education of all their citizens to become learning cities and to achieve global competitiveness.*
 - *Cities should promote the use of environmentally friendly technologies and materials, including renewable sources of energy and higher efficiency in the use of natural resources.*
 - *Cities should strive to promote local economic development, including recognising the role of the informal sector and integrating the informal into the formal economy.*
 - *Cities should, in co-operation with other levels of government, provide incentives, regulations and benchmarks, which will encourage the private sector to think globally, act locally and reach out to the poor in a non-discriminatory manner.*
 - *Cities should, where appropriate, consider accepting and integrating informal settlements into the existing urban structure and social life.*
 - *Cities should conserve their historical heritage and aspire to become beautiful places where art, culture, architecture and landscape bring joy and inspiration to the citizens.*
 - *Cities should adopt appropriate land use planning and implementation measures with a view to promoting vibrant economies, functioning land markets, affordable housing and suitable infrastructure.*
 - *Cities should promote the development of an appropriate integrated public transport system which is fast, safe, accessible and affordable; better manage the use of the private car, and encourage the use of environmentally friendly means of transport.*
 - *Cities should attempt to achieve a good balance between the natural and built environment and should take action to reduce air, water, land and noise pollution, thereby enhancing the citizens' quality of life.*
 - *Cities should govern themselves and order their relations with all their citizens, without discrimination, in accordance with the principles of democracy and good governance, with special outreach to women, youth and minorities.*
 - *Cities should establish forums, bilateral and multilateral partnerships to facilitate networking, mutual help and the faster dissemination of best practices.*
 - *Non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations should be empowered to participate fully in equitable and sustainable development.*
 - *The private sector, local, national and international, should bring to bear financial instruments and investments in a manner that promotes sustainable urban development.*
 - *National governments should give high priority to their urban development policies in the framework of national and regional policies.*
 - *National and regional governments should ensure that cities have sufficient power and resources to carry out their functions and responsibilities.*
 - *The World Bank, the UN Development Programme, the UN Centre for Human Settlements, other international agencies and bilateral donors should intensify their co-operation with cities, non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations in the fields of housing, urban development and poverty alleviation.*
- We conclude on an optimistic note. We are entering the urban millennium. Cities, always the engines of economic growth and incubators of civilisation, today are beset by tremendous challenges. Millions of men, women and children face a daily struggle for survival. Can we turn this around? Can we give our people hope for a brighter future? We believe that if we harness the positive forces of education and sustainable development, globalisation and information technology, democracy and good governance, the empowerment of women and civil society, we shall truly build cities of beauty, ecology, economy and social justice.*

For further information please refer to www.urban21.de

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European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) Action Programme

In May 1999, at the informal council in Potsdam, the Ministers of the EU Member States responsible for spatial planning adopted the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). The ESDP is a political framework for an improved co-operation between the European Commission with its community policies and the EU Member States and their regions and cities. It depicts a spatial vision of the EU territory that has been developed jointly by the EU Member States and the Commission. Furthermore, it presents political options that aim at a sustainable and balanced development. At the informal council in Potsdam, the Ministers opened a political discussion of the application of the ESDP policy orientations. In October 1999, at their informal council in Tampere, the Ministers and the Commissioner agreed upon the ESDP Action Programme which will be a first step of putting the ESDP into practise. A set of 12 selective actions will be carried out together by the European Commission and the EU Member States. EU Member States and the European Commission have decided to develop and to commit themselves to a number of actions in order to encourage the application of the ESDP as a policy framework and reference document within Member States and to translate its policy orientations into examples of good practice at transnational and European level as well as at national, regional and local level. To avoid inadequate interpretations and perceptions of processes at national, regional and local level and, at the same time, to enable a realistic image of the regional diversity of Europe knowledge, research and information on territorial development has to be improved. This shall be achieved in establishing a network of spatial research institutions as well as through competition among regions and through educating future generations. Another aspect: Both the European territory as a whole and the forthcoming enlargement of the European Union have spatial impacts on each European country. Therefore, EU Member States actively participate in the elaboration process of a pan-European

framework for spatial development. These guiding principles, basically influenced by the ESDP policy orientations, will be discussed at the 12th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning (CEMAT) on 7–8 September this year in Hanover (see announcement p. 15).

The three strands of actions following the ESDP aims of a sustainable and balanced development run as follows:

Promoting a Spatial Dimension in Community and National Policies

- ESDP policy orientations in Structural Funds mainstream programmes
- INTERREG III and ESDP demonstration projects (see article p. 8)
- ESDP policy orientations in national spatial planning
- Spatial impacts of Community Policies
- Territorial Impact Assessment
- Urban policy application and co-operation

Improving Knowledge, Research and Information on Territorial Developments

- Establishing the ESPON co-operation (see article p. 5)
- Geography manuals for secondary schools
- The award "Future regions of Europe"
- Guide on integrated strategies for coastal regions

Preparing for an Enlarged Territory of the European Union

- Pan-European framework for spatial development
- Spatial impacts of enlargement on EU Member States and non-EU Member States

The Action Programme will be carried out based on the principles of transparency and co-operation. Some actions are in the responsibility of both the EU Member States and the European Commission. The actions will be progressed by a lead partner.

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Study Programme on European Spatial Planning – Retrospective and Outlook

In March 2000 the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning (see Research News No 1/1999 and No 2/1999) ended with the presentation of the final report.

Prepared by the co-ordination team (lead by NORDREGIO, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, Sweden) and in close co-operation with the National Focal Points of the EU Member States it summarises and reflects on the results of one year's work of the network. A total of 13 transnational working groups worked in three thematic fields of research.

Regions and Urban-Rural Partnership

Based on the analysis of innovative case studies (see Fig. 1), urban-rural relationships were elaborated and key messages on urban-rural partnership were formulated.

The case studies should reflect different spatial settings:

- *Regions dominated by a large metropolis;*
- *Polycentric regions with high urban and rural densities;*
- *Polycentric regions with high urban densities;*
- *Rural areas under metropolitan influence;*
- *Rural areas with networks of medium-sized and small towns;*
- *Remote rural areas.*

Furthermore, main trends in urban-rural relationship affecting the European territory were analysed:

- *Changing nature of economic activities and their spatial consequences;*
- *Dynamics of innovation and learning;*
- *Changing demographic profiles;*
- *Social change and differentiating lifestyles;*
- *New basis for culture, identity and citizenship;*
- *Environmental sustainability as a motivating concept.*

The following key messages were arrived at :

- *As functional regions become larger, the traditional dualism between city and countryside becomes less relevant. It is, therefore, necessary to have better links between policies addressing urban areas and policies addressing rural areas.*

- *It is important to distinguish between urban-rural relationships and the questions of interaction and flows on one hand, and urban-rural partnership and the question of co-operation and governance, on the other.*
- *Much can be gained by strengthening the regional level of government, and by improvement of co-operative planning.*
- *Further work should concentrate on European Functional Areas and on case studies.*

The Final Report and the working group reports are available at www.nordregio.se

In this context, to mirror results of the qualitative case study approach with indicator based data analyses, the German National Focal Point elaborated types of rural-urban regional settings (see Fig. 2).

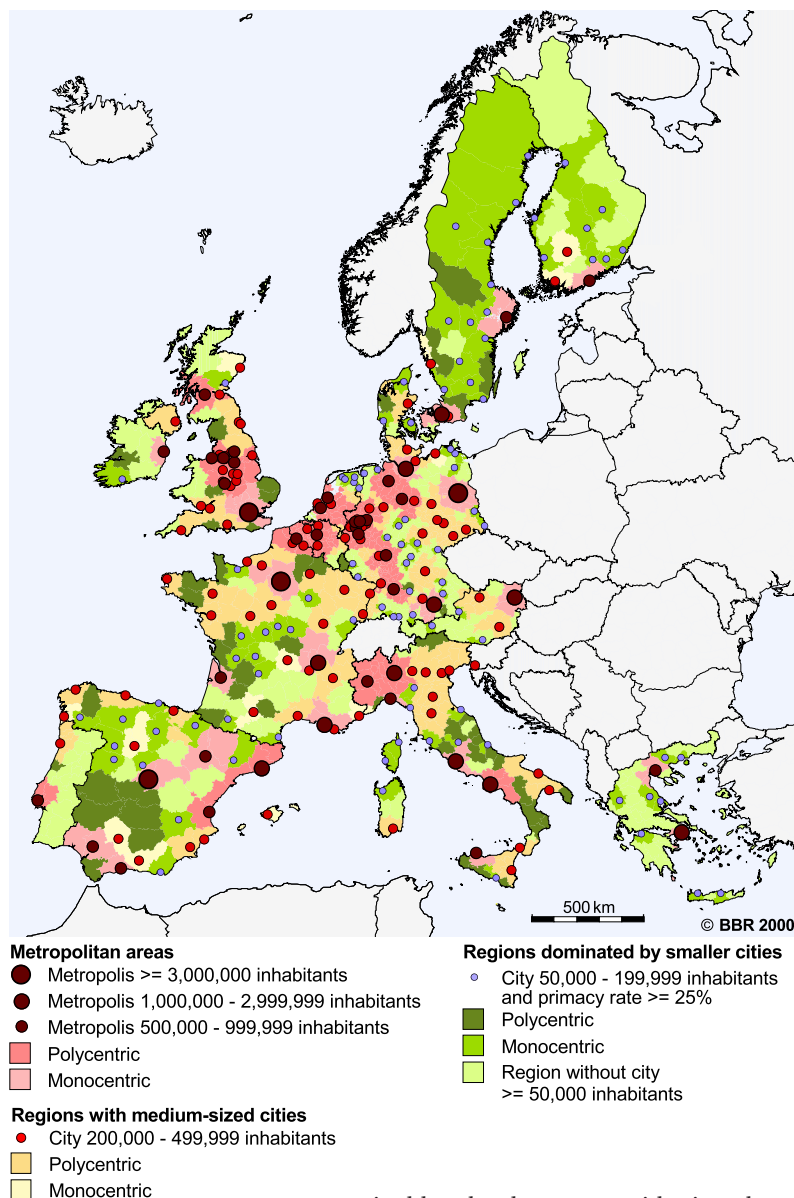
Criteria for Spatial Differentiation

To monitor the progress in the realisation of the central aim of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP),

Fig. 1: Case studies on urban-rural partnership



Fig. 2: Types of rural-urban regional settings



The common data-file developed under theme *Criteria for spatial differentiation* of the Study Programme can be downloaded at the website of the BBR at www.bbr.bund.de

Policy images developed by the infographics group (see Fig. 4-12) are available at www.mcrit.com/SPESP/ESPON.htm Here, MCRIT has also established a programme for the creation of maps, drawing on a data base of the Study Programme.

sustainable development with its three components development, balance and protection, criteria for the spatial differentiation have to be elaborated and indicators constructed. The Noordwijk document (pre-ESDP paper) identified geographical position, spatial integration, economic strength, natural assets, cultural assets, land-use pressure and social integration as the relevant concepts.

The Study Programme analysed how these seven criteria can be conceptualised, how they can be constructed as indicators and in how far they can be illustrated with already existing data.

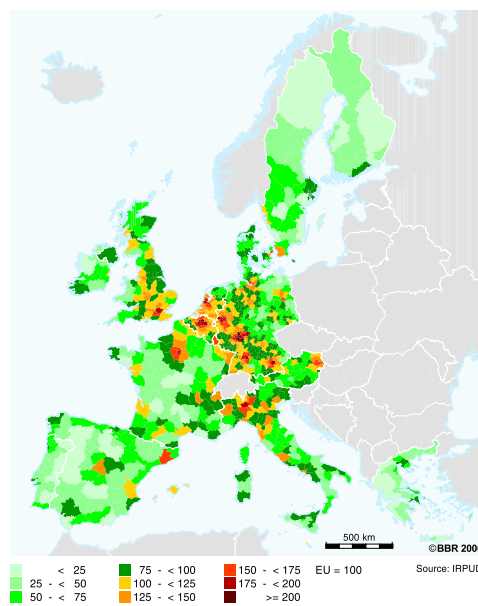
Geographical position as the location of areas was above all conceptualised as the relative accessibility of a region (as example see Fig. 3). In contrast to accessibility as prerequisite for interaction, spatial

integration focussed on the levels of actual interaction between areas. Economic strength, amongst others, referred to basic concepts such as wealth and productivity of a region. Natural characteristics of the EU territory and their relationship to the environment were at the core of natural assets. Its counterpart, cultural assets, was understood as primarily comprising of two types: cultural landscapes on the one and cultural sites and monuments on the other hand. Relating to both natural and cultural pressures, land-use pressure conceptualised different aspects of intensification and specialisation of land-use. Finally, social integration, aimed at quantifying levels of inclusion respectively exclusion in different dimensions, such as labour market, education, social networks etc.

In summary it can be said that the progress of the seven working groups highly depended on the quality of the material already available, both in terms of conceptualisation and availability of data. Thus, the diverting starting points ranging from rather traditional topics such as economic strength to only little explored areas such as cultural assets were mirrored in the diversity of the results.

However, the Study Programme has taken a major first step in developing spatial indicators even if further conceptualising of instruments is necessary in some cases. In the future, interrelationships and overlaps between the seven criteria have to be

Fig. 3: Geographical Position: Accessibility by air to GDP in 1996



assessed in more detail, possibly leading to a revision of the criteria. Choosing the optimal geographical scale is important, too, and for some indicators new approaches are necessary in order to find data for the appropriate geographical level. And finally, commitment to developing comparative data on which operational instruments can be based is detrimental.

Spatial Images – Innovative Cartography of European Spatial Policies

Exploring innovative methods of representing and translating policy options of the ESDP three main approaches of (carto-)graphical interpretation became apparent: A *cartographic* approach with indicator based thematic maps as starting points for the visualisation of perspectives in spatial development. A more *graphic and artistic* approach grounded on symbolic interpretation and language. And, finally, an "in-between" approach taking maps to identify spatial processes and graphical methods to illustrate related policies.

Networking

The Study Programme was a testing-ground for a European-wide research network and a possible future European Spatial Observatory Network (ESPON) involving around 200 professionals. The network structure meant that continuous and strong co-ordination both within and between working groups was needed. Without the extensive use of electronic media this would hardly have been possible. The organisational model where a co-ordination body, 15 National Focal Points, national sub-networks and 13 transnational working groups formed the working context put high demands on both organisational capacity and scientific expertise. Clarity concerning the division of labour and responsibility were vital, however not always realised in the most productive way. The diversity of cultural and scientific backgrounds posed a challenge, too. In these terms, a steering or a co-ordination body with a wider mandate able to take a more pro-active stance, might be appropriate.

Within the course of the Study Programme it became clear that a significantly longer working mandate as well as better links for feedback between research and policy making are detrimental for the success of a future network.

Outlook

The Study Programme was launched with the objective to identify possible institutional, legal, administrative and financial parameters of a network of spatial research institutes, the so-called *ESPON*. After the end of its test-phase the European Commission and the Committee for Spatial Development (CSD) currently discuss the mode of continuation. As one of twelve actions decided upon in the ESDP Action Programme (see article p. 4) it is to be expected that the Study Programme will be continued under INTERREG III for the period 2000-2006. For news and further developments please refer to the forthcoming issue of *Research News*. From autumn 2000 the final report and the working group reports *Geographical position*, *Economic strength* and *Cultural assets* will be available in both English and German at the BBR.

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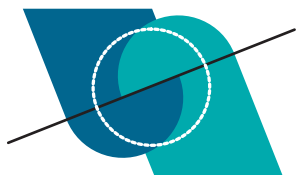
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Fig. 4–12: Spatial images



Source: www.mcrit.com/SPESP/ESPON.htm



INTERREG II C / INTERREG III B Transnational Programmes for the Implementation of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)

Internet addresses
of the INTERREG II C
co-operation areas:

Baltic Sea Region
www.spatial.baltic.net

Central European, Adriatic,
Danubian and South-
Eastern European Space
(CADSES)
www.tu-dresden.de/ioer

North Sea Region
www.northsea.org/
interregIIC/index.html

North-Western
Metropolitan Area (NWMA)
www.nwmainterregiic.org/

Flood Prevention Rhine-
Meuse (IRMA)

www.irma-programme.org

With the community initiative INTERREG II C, launched in 1996, the European Commission has already created programmes for the development of innovative procedures and modes of co-operation between the European Commission, the EU Member States and their regional and local authorities in the field of spatial development and to test the co-operation in common administrative and financial structures. The co-operation in the framework of INTERREG II C aims at implementing the policy options of the ESDP in the transnational co-operation areas by means of common projects.

In Germany, the community initiative received a positive response: the Federal government and the Länder participate in five large European co-operation areas: the Baltic Sea Region, the Central European, Adriatic, Danubian and South Eastern European Space (CADSES), the North Sea Region, the North Western Metropolitan Area and in the programme area "Flood Prevention Rhine-Meuse" (IRMA). Furthermore, in the Eastern Alps, Germany is involved in an innovative pilot action under Article 10 of the European Regional

Development Fund (ERDF) (see Research News No 1/1999 and No 2/1999).

INTERREG II C: Level of Implementation

In total M EURO 230 ERDF funds have been allocated for projects in the six co-operation areas with German participation in the committing period 1997–1999 (see Fig. 1). On average, Germany is involved in one out of two projects. More than a quarter of all projects have a German lead partner.

The community initiative attracted a lot of attention from the local and regional authorities, due to the fact that INTERREG II C opens up the chance to put regional development projects into a cross-border, transnational and European context. In most projects various partners from the regional and local levels are represented, which also take a great bulk of co-financing. In the North Sea Region for example an average of six formal partners per project are involved. Furthermore, most projects have sub-partners and local networks in addition to the formal partners. Despite difficult circumstances the involvement of partners from non-EU Member States has proven to be successful. In the CADSES area non-EU

Fig. 1: ERDF funding and project

Co-operation area	ERDF funding in M EURO*		Number of approved projects		
	in the whole co-operation	in Germany	total	with German participation**	with German lead applicant/ project coordinato
Baltic Sea Region	25,6	11,1 (43 %)	45	38 (84 %)	19 (45 %)
North Sea Region	15,7***	3,2 (20 %)	45	29 (64 %)	8 (18 %)
CADSES	20,5	4,2 (20 %)	45	26 (58 %)	16 (36 %)
NWMA	28,2	0,88 (3 %)	45	21 (47 %)	3 (7 %)
IRMA	138,8	34,7 (25 %)	153	49 (32 %)	45 (29 %)
Alpine Space	4,75	0,95 (20 %)	9	7 (78 %)	2 (22 %)
Areas with German participation	233,6	55,0 (24 %)	342	170 (50 %)	93 (27 %)

* excl. Technical Assistance

** incl. projects with German lead applicant/project coordinator

*** incl. Norwegian contribution

Source: Own calculations

Member States are involved in all projects. In the Baltic Sea Region two thirds of the approved projects have partnerships with non-EU Member States.

The joint development of strategies and their implementation by common projects leads not only to a better exchange of experience between the EU Member States and their regional and local authorities but also shows that positive synergy effects can be achieved by coherent and co-ordinated measures.

Even if the results of the co-operation cannot be finally balanced due to the late starting point of most of the projects in 1999, a positive conclusion can be drawn: With the active participation of numerous local and regional authorities in the INTERREG II C co-operation programmes an important objective has been achieved, namely to initiate innovative transnational co-operation activities in the field of spatial planning and development.

INTERREG III B: Continuation and Intensification of Co-operation

Already during their informal meeting in Potsdam, the ministers of the EU Member States responsible for spatial planning agreed to continue the community initiative INTERREG as an important instrument for implementing the ESDP in the structural funds period 2000–2006. The European Commission adopted the definitive guidelines on 28 April 2000. The support granted by the ERDF for the new initiative will be M EURO 4.875 for the period 2000–2006. The new initiative INTERREG III B will be implemented under three strands:

- Strand A is related to cross-border co-operation and aims at promoting integrated regional development between neighbouring border regions.
- Strand B deals with transnational co-operation and works towards an harmonious territorial integration across the Community.
- Strand C aims at improving regional development and cohesion policies and techniques through interregional co-operation.

The successful transnational co-operation in spatial development in the framework of INTERREG II C and of the pilot actions under Art. 10 ERDF will be continued under INTERREG III B in the programme period 2000–2006 with considerably increased

financial resources. In Germany an amount of M EURO 103 ERDF funds are available for transnational co-operation in the context of INTERREG III B, for which national co-financing of the same amount have to be mobilised.

The guidelines for the period 2000–2006 take into account the experiences gained during the period 1994–1999. The co-operation areas proposed in the guidelines are closely linked to the INTERREG II C co-operation areas and to the pilot actions under Art. 10 ERDF. Germany will participate in five co-operation areas. Apart from some changes in the spatial delimitation four of them are corresponding with INTERREG II C co-operation areas (Baltic Sea Region, North Sea Region, North-Western Europe, CADSES). The Alpine Space, which up to now has been a pilot action under Art. 10 ERDF, has been integrated into the eligible INTERREG III B co-operation areas. Flood prevention not longer is a separate strand (as it was under INTERREG II C), as the management of water resources now is a topic that can be dealt with in all co-operation areas. Therefore the IRMA programme will not be continued, but flood prevention activities in the water catchment area Rhine-Meuse for example can be part of the programme of North-Western Europe. Corresponding measures in the field of regional water management at the river Oder can be tackled in the CADSES.

At present, the partner states of the co-operation areas, together with the regions, are elaborating the Community Initiative Programmes (CIP), which will be submitted for approval to the European Commission probably in mid-November this year. After approval by the European Commission the implementation phase will start in the second half of 2001 i.e. carrying out the programmes by concrete transnational projects.

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) supports the co-operation in the framework of INTERREG II C respectively INTERREG III B in multifold ways. Three main tasks can be distinguished:

- Advisory services for the creation of transnational co-operation structures and the development of project ideas;
- Technical support for specific projects and execution of own projects;
- Exchange of experience and information.

The INTERREG guidelines can be downloaded from the internet at www.inforegio.org/wbdoc/docoffic/official/interreg3/index_en.htm

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Transnational Co-operation for Spatial Development in the Baltic Sea Region – the Project "VASAB 2010 Plus"

For further information please refer to www.vasab.org.pl or follow the advices at the website of the BBR at www.bbr.bund.de

The elaboration of the project "VASAB 2010 Plus" is the most recent step in a co-operation process which started after 1990.

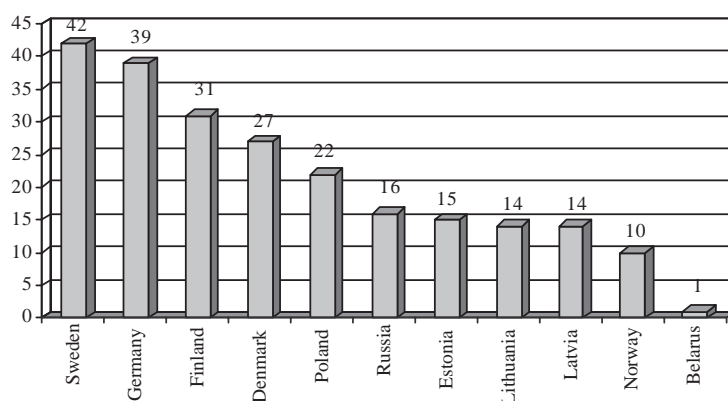
The basic document for further spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010 (VASAB 2010) – Towards a Framework for Spatial Development in the Baltic Sea Region" was adopted in 1994 during a conference of ministers responsible for spatial planning of Baltic Sea States. This document served as main input and formed the "red line" for the first operational programme of the community initiative INTERREG II C in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). On the other hand, this programme, together with complementary elements of the EU programmes PHARE and TACIS for Central and Eastern European countries, proved to be the most sufficient instrument for realising visions and projects on transnational spatial development. Since then, 45 projects have been adopted within the framework of this programme with participants from 11 countries – Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden (see Fig. 1).

As mentioned above the main project ideas of VASAB became an integrated part of the Operational Programme and the 45 projects approved under INTERREG II C cover all relevant fields of VASAB and many policy options of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP):

Urban Networks

Projects on urban networks try to solve major problems of cities and their relations to surrounding areas in networks of city regions (uncontrolled urban growth spreading into the countryside, social and spatial segregation, traffic congestion, environmental pollution, exhaustion of natural resources like water, inadequate recycling, lack of open spaces and untapped landscapes). These projects will not only propose strategies but also concrete practical guidelines for handling problems and preparing investment. Other projects on urban networks deal with city functions towards waterways and towards the coast. The background is overcoming the political division of the Baltic Sea Region. There is a great challenge but also a chance: Cities can regain their functionality for the Baltic Sea Region and strengthen their overall international competitiveness. Specific features of such projects are the use of derelict land, the conversion of old harbour areas or increasing the attractiveness of the waterfronts of towns by means of urban building and planning. Cities and towns of EU and non-EU Member States will be restructured in that way. Another project has its starting point in existing sport boat harbours. Based on spatial planning principles, the creation of a network of such harbours around the Baltic coast will be supported, taking into account economic, environmental and spatial criteria. In addition, the strengthening of ports cities' attractiveness through urban development measures will be prepared.

Fig. 1: Baltic projects of transportation development zones



Source: Own calculations

Transnational (Trans-European) Corridors

Several projects pay attention to transnational (trans-European) corridors (see Fig. 2). The question here is to combine transport development with sustainable regional development, to find suitable forms of combining modes of transport, to pay attention to the development of settlements and their transport connections, to use and to develop potential for tourism, to use and maintain natural and cultural heritage and to prepare the ground for concrete investment. Some of these projects deal with transport corridors between states inside and outside the EU, supporting the process of growing together for the whole area.

Costal Zone Planning and Management

A series of projects is dedicated to coastal zone planning and management. Via those projects the operability of "Common Recommendations for Spatial Planning of the Coastal Zone in the Baltic Sea Region", prepared by VASAB (Committee on Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Region) will be examined.

Baltic Natural and Cultural Heritage

Interesting projects are also prepared on using and maintaining Baltic natural and cultural heritage and with regard to specific areas. An example for this is the co-operation between Swedish, Polish, Latvian and German regions which are characterised by large nature protection areas. Here, ways and means will be examined and implemented on how economic development can be combined with nature protection. The project will also deal with alternatives to and inside agriculture as development factors for rural areas.

Transnational Development Concepts

Some projects elaborate transnational development concepts and promote pilot projects for smaller action areas inside the Baltic Sea Region e.g. for the South Western Baltic Sea area, the Bothnian Arc.

Spatial Planning Systems

Another project family deals with spatial planning systems themselves. The respective projects develop and apply new innovative planning methods and instruments and try to make use of the strengths of the different systems.

The project "VASAB 2010 Plus – Spatial Development Action Programme" can be characterised as "umbrella project". It tries to upgrade visions and strategies for Baltic Sea Region spatial development, to evaluate other projects against this background and to define focal points and key projects to be implemented in the framework of the forthcoming community initiative INTERREG III B between 2000 and 2006. Resulting from discussion among Baltic actors the following key themes for transnational co-operation on Baltic Sea Region spatial development have been defined:

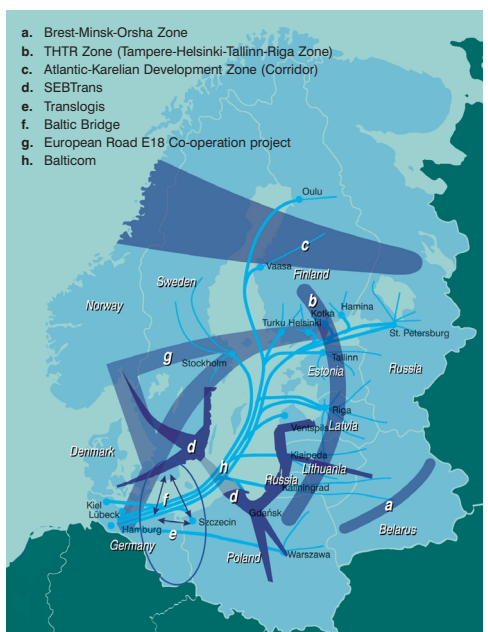
- Promotion of strategic development zones inside the BSR, important for overall integration;

- Promotion of clusters of co-operation of cities and regions influenced by these cities on key issues of sustainable development;
- Promotion of intermodal transport strategies as well as transnational transport links and their connection to regional networks (including port-hinterland connections);
- Promotion of specific BSR tourism as development factor;
- Diversification and strengthening of rural economies;
- Identification, networking and marketing green areas and cultural landscapes of pan-Baltic importance;
- Promotion of integrated management of coastal zones and islands.

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) acts as lead partner for this project. Representatives of all above mentioned 11 countries participate. The Committee on Spatial Development of the Baltic Sea Region steers the project elaboration. Interim project results have been incorporated into the drafting process for the new Community Initiative Programmes (CIP). After having finished "VASAB 2010 Plus" in 2001, it is intended to implement the identified key actions and projects under INTERREG III B and other programmes.

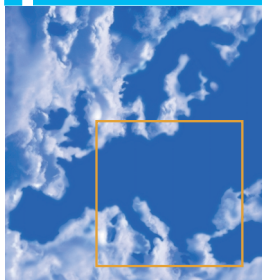
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Fig. 2: Participation of Baltic Sea States in projects of the community initiative INTERREG II C



Source: VASAB 2010 Secretariat, 1999

vision planet



VISION PLANET

Strategies for Integrated Spatial Development of the Central European, Danubian and Adriatic Area

Initial Situation

The countries of Central and Southeast Europe are faced with the difficult task of coping with the challenges created by the transformation from a centrally planned society to a market-controlled society as well as with the increasing integration into the structures of the European Union. The experience of the past ten years shows that this does not remain without impacts on the spatial structures and developments in the affected countries, but also in the neighbouring EU Member States Germany, Greece, Italy and Austria.

Against this background the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) has initiated the project VISION PLANET together with the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria in the framework of INTERREG II C in 1997.

The German contribution was part of the national action programme "Demonstration Projects of Spatial

Development". The following aims are pursued together with the ministries responsible for spatial planning and policy-related research institutions from ten other Central and Southeast European states:

- Increased attention for questions concerning spatial development in the countries of Central and Southeast Europe;
- Improvement of the mutual understanding of spatial development policy between spatial planners of the participating countries;
- Development of a common reference framework for future co-operation (in spatial development policy as well as with sectoral policies).

The Project Area

The CADSES (subsequently referred to as the VISION area) represents 7 % of the European land surface (23.4 % not including Russia) with a population of 197 million (26.5 % of the population of Europe). It is made up of 18 European countries, 13 in full (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Yugoslavia) and 5 in part (Austria, Germany, Italy, Poland and the Ukraine) (see Fig. 1).

Huge differences in the social, economic and geographical situation characterise this area (see Fig. 3 and 4):

- The level of economic development differs enormously within the area. Some of the most developed regions of Europe are located in the VISION area (Vienna, Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Emilia-Romagna), but the least developed areas of Europe (Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia) are to be found here, too. Differences are huge even within the eastern VISION area.
- The economic and employment structure also differs very much. In some eastern VISION countries the percentage of the population employed in agriculture is now comparatively low as in Bavaria, Italy and Austria (4 to 7 %), whilst in other countries it is quite high (25 to 40 %) and has even increased in recent years.

Fig. 1: Central European, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES)



- The same applies to the demographic figures. The countries with the highest (Albania, Macedonia) and with the lowest (Italy, Germany) birth rates in Europe are in the VISION area.

Policy Approach

In the Central and Southeast European area, which is characterised by heterogeneity and diversity in political and social experience, there is no developed tradition of co-operation. This is also true for spatial development policy, which is faced with the additional problem that its instruments and institutions are still in the early stages of formation in many participating countries. The initiative started as a "bottom-up-process" from the working level and was not based on a decision between state governments. Accordingly, the project was designed with an orientation towards communication and processes.

The tasks within the project were dealt with in two parts:

- Elaboration of visions and strategies for spatial development policy

This concerned the concrete development and formulation of a common document in the so-called *WORKING TEAM*. Members of the *WORKING TEAM* included spatial planning experts, either directly from the national administrations or nominated by them.

- Dialogue on spatial planning in an institutional network

This dialogue in the so-called *PROJECT PANEL* has initiated a structured exchange of information and opinions and has simultaneously supported the work of the *WORKING TEAM*. Members of the *PROJECT PANEL* included representatives from the national ministries responsible for spatial planning. The seminars of the *PROJECT PANEL* were open to the members of the *WORKING TEAM*, so that a continuous thematic exchange took place.

Outcome

Following main tasks for spatial development policy in the VISION region were identified:

- A Improving the spatial structure
- B Shaping the development of settlements and cities
- C Transforming rural areas

Fig. 2: Organisational chart

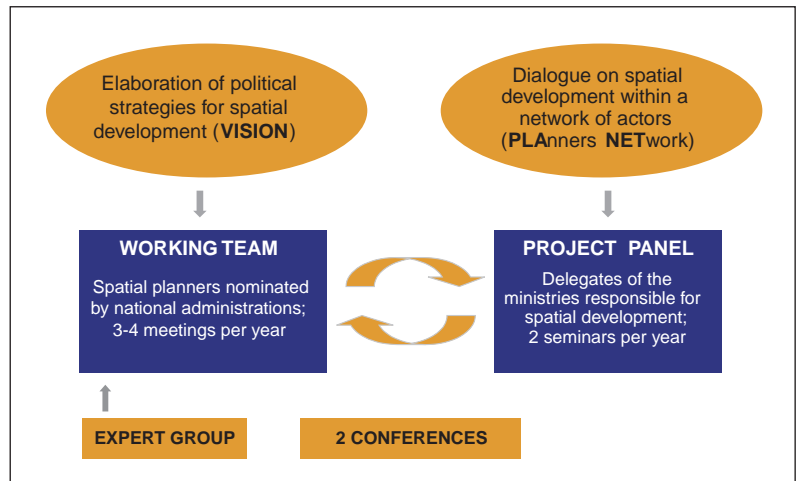


Fig. 3: Population density 1930 and 1995

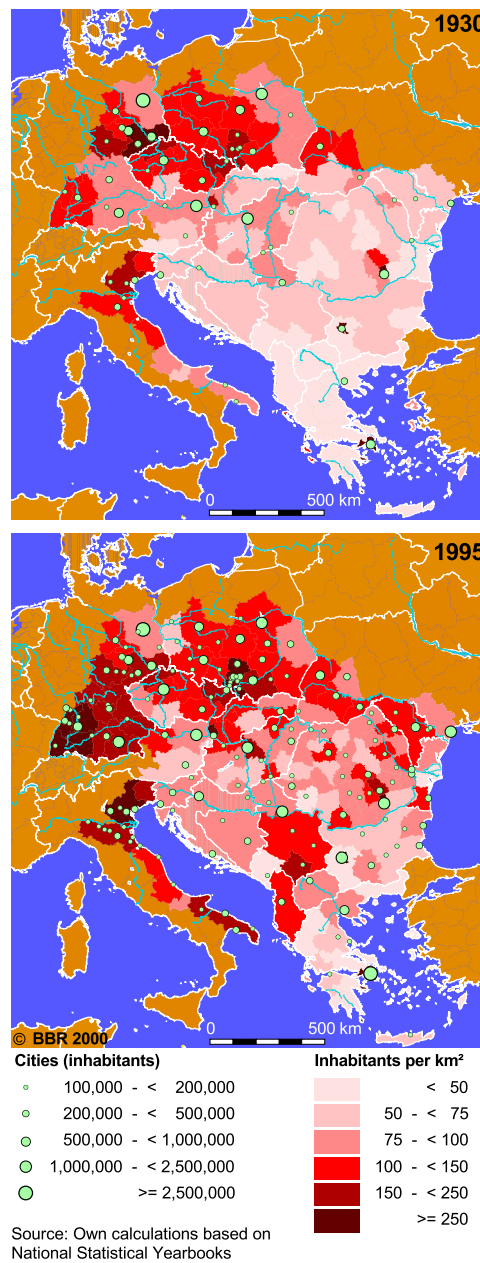
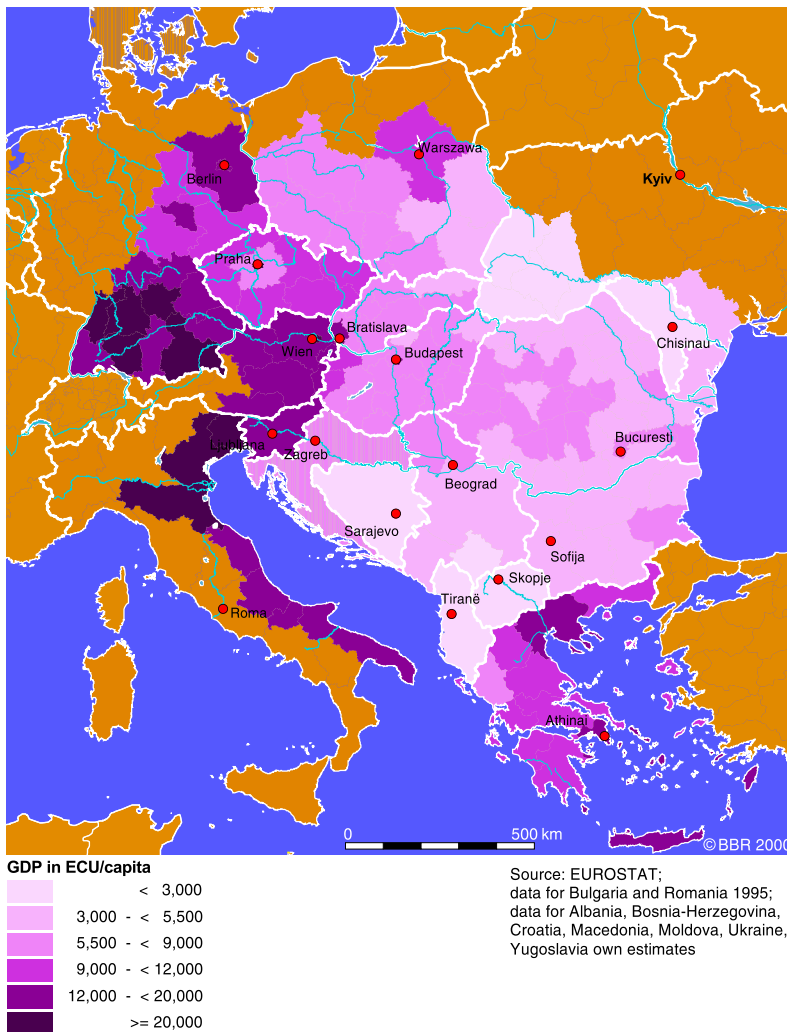


Fig. 4: Regional Gross Domestic Product in 1996



D Developing transport and telecommunication

E Protecting the environment and managing the natural and cultural heritage

Some examples of necessary actions include:

- To deal with emerging regional disparities within the framework of a comprehensive regional policy, by focusing efforts on areas lagging behind in development or in a serious structural crisis, but without endangering the development of leading dynamic regions, the latter being the carriers of national growth and competitiveness, which is vital for the countries of the VISION area;
- To establish a new rural-urban relationship in order to ensure integrated development, structural change and improvement of service provision in urban centres and their surroundings;

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Project website:
Please follow the advices at the website of the BBR at www.bbr.bund.de

- To mitigate drawbacks and disadvantages caused by peripheral situations, by opening more border crossings, by intensifying cross-border co-operation and by proper improvement of the transportation network;
- To diversify the economic and employment structure of monocultural agricultural areas and one-sided "company towns" by promoting small and medium sized enterprises, by utilising endogenous resources and by combining different measures of economic policy;
- To facilitate better access to knowledge and information in all areas through better location and profile of educational and cultural and research institutions, by networking these institutions and by utilising up-to-date information technology.

Implementation

For the first time, the project has opened the already established co-operation in spatial planning in Western Europe (or the EU) to the states of Central and Southeast Europe. Furthermore, it has led to increased co-operation between these states themselves.

The so-called *VISION document*, which explains the basic objectives and action areas of spatial development policy on about 60 pages, constitutes a basis for the further development of national spatial development concepts (which the candidates for accession to the EU have engaged themselves to prepare). It thus makes a tangible contribution to the co-ordination of pre-accession instruments (such as PHARE and ISPA) at national level and contributes to a more efficient use of these EU funds.

In addition to the national level and private agencies, international financial institutions influence spatial development considerably through their investments. Therefore, in spring 2000, the results of the project were presented to agents in international organisations such as the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the World Bank, in order to determine points of contact and possibilities for co-operation. The common positions of spatial planners in this part of Europe reached in VISION PLANET can contribute to achieving a greater coherence in the activities of these institutions.

Publications

Spatial Planning Report 2000

Raumordnungsbericht 2000

The Spatial Planning Report 2000, published in German (CD-ROM included), gives an up-to-date overview of the situation of the spatial structure and of spatial development in the area of the Federal Republic of Germany and thus provides important information for planning authorities of the federation, of the Länder and of the municipalities as well as for the specialist public. The report analyses the most important factors of spatial and settlement structure in their regional differentiation, and the trends of future spatial development are estimated in an outlook. Furthermore spatial planning co-operation in Germany and Europe is described, and spatially effective sectoral plans of the federation, such as large-scale transportation policy and regional economic development policy, are documented with their application of spatially effective funds (price 15 DM).

CD-ROM INKAR "Indicators and Maps on Spatial Development" *Indikatoren und Karten zur Raumentwicklung*

The CD-ROM "Indicators and Maps on Spatial Development" (Indikatoren und Karten zur Raumentwicklung), INKAR-edition 1999, published in German, allows the independent compilation and processing of tables as well as the cartographic representation of indicators at the level of the German Länder, spatial planning regions and counties.

- Users can combine indicators in different spatial units and subject areas in their own tables at their discretion;
- Export function into all current formats (ASCII, Excel, ACCESS, CSV, SPSS);
- Cartography programme with numerous functions:
 - Infinitely variable zooming (presentation of details);
 - Classification of values according to own conceptions or fixed prescriptions;
 - Several colour schemes or presentations in shades of grey;
 - Search function;
 - Data window with further indicators on the selected spatial unit;
 - Map print in colour or black and white.

In addition, the CD-ROM includes the complete print volume as a PDF-document as well as a demonstration version of the data bank "Regional Statistics" (Statistik-regional) of the Statistical Offices of the federation and the Länder (price 98 DM).

Urban Development and Urban Policy in Germany. An Overview

The report was produced during the preparation for URBAN 21, the Global Conference on the Urban Future. The report is aimed at providing the international specialist community with compact, but comprehensive information on urban development and urban policy in Germany. At the same time it is aimed at "interested amateurs" in Germany, who do not examine this issue every day. It was therefore necessary in many places to consciously simplify and shorten it. This report is designed to convey the "rules of the game" of urban development and urban policy in Germany in a way that is comprehensible to everyone (journal *Berichte Bd. 6*, price 10 DM).

Building and Regions *Bau und Raum Annual Jahrbuch 1999/2000*

The 1999/2000 annual opens with the Neue Wache on Unter den Linden – Schinkel's first major building, the first building of the Prussian state after the defeat of Napoleon, and the first monumental Building of the Federal Republic of Germany in reunified Berlin (...) The present and the future likewise call for new sings. Since the Wall came down, Berlin has expanded not only outward, but upward as well. The project "Euopolis" at the Zoo railway station presents the towering vision of an urban quarter of the future; its skyscraper, saluting Alexanderplatz on the other side of the city, sets a self-confident landmark for the new Berlin. Perhaps one day it will cast shadows, for signs and wonders still happen. This publication can be obtained at *Hatje Cantz Verlag*. Please refer to www.hatjecantz.de (price 68 DM).

Events

CEMAT, Hanover, 7–8 September 2000

At this session, the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) will discuss the "Guidelines for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent". This document will be a common platform for 41 countries aiming at a better spatial integration of larger European territories. Main focal points are:

- The consideration of the specific situation and requirements of the new Member States of the Council of Europe,
- the investigation of financial models for spatial development projects and
- the analysis of the role of local and regional administrations for sustainable spatial development.

For further information please refer to www.bmvbw.de

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CD-ROM "Europe's Regions on their Way to Sustainable Development"

Sustainable development is one of the crucial challenges of our time. The problems posed by resource-depleting and environmentally damaging forms of economic activity and lifestyles can be seen most clearly in agglomerations. This is why the opportunities for devising a global policy of sustainable development must be sought and used here. A number of different projects carried out in Germany helped to gain a large overview of the perspectives, concepts and strategies of sustainable regional development in Europe. 73 regions participated in the projects which will be presented by this CD-ROM. The CD-ROM is intended, on the one hand, to give a Europe-wide overview of different objectives, strategies and implementing activities of sustainable regional development and, on the other hand, to promote an international exchange of information on sustainable regional development between politicians, planners, citizens, and scientists in order to provide an impetus for the further implementation of the principle of sustainable development. The CD-ROM is characterised by four topics: *Understanding the Region, Planning for Sustainability, Key Projects, Future Tasks and Challenges*. It is published in English and can be obtained at *Selbstverlag* (fee 10 DM).

1989–1999 – Ten Years in the Development of Regional and Local Structures and Systems in Central and Eastern Europe – A Decade of Historical Changes at the End of a Century

From 11 to 12 November 1999 a symposium on the spatial impacts of the transformation processes in central and Eastern Europe after 1989 took place in Berlin with the above title. The BBR had invited experts from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and Hungary together with German and other Western European colleagues to discuss and analyse good practices, challenges and risks of the fundamental structural changes. Focus was the political-administrative practices and the reality of spatial planning under the new conditions. Among the participants were also the president and two scientists from the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) who reported on the situation in the Koreas facing possible unification. The speeches and discussions of the symposium will be made available for a larger audience by the end of this year. The documentation will be published as volume of the journal "Information on Spatial Development" (price 20 DM).